

**Shelton  
Commission Meeting  
Minutes  
November 9, 2002**

**Meeting called to order by:** Leo Gaeta, Chair, meeting held at the Shelton Middle School. Started at 9:10 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Leo Gaeta, Phyllis Gallegos, Mario Reyes, Becky Diaz, Gabriel Banfi, Christina Guillen-Cook, Diana Avalos.

**Commissioners Absent:**

Edward Davila, excused, Alice Castilleja-Lara, excused.

**Staff:**

Antonio Ginatta, Vita Villa

**Approval of minutes:**

**Gallegos** - Made motion to approve the minutes from Pasco meeting

**Guillen-Cook** - 2<sup>nd</sup>

Approved

**Executive Director's Comments:** Thanked everyone for attending the. He told the community that the purpose for the meeting was to listen to their concerns about the issues that exist in their community. Instead of speaking about what the commission has done he has written a report in Spanish and if anyone needs it in English it will be translated on Tuesday of next week. Spoke about bill 2330 and that the Legislative session would be starting in January. He mentioned that the state is in a deficit and that programs affecting Latinos may be cut. Ginatta stated that the Latino community should have a voice about the programs that may get cut.

**Commissioner comments**

**Avalos:** The newly appointed commissioner is on the Education Committee and is currently working on the report that will be included on the final draft of the legislative agenda.

**Reyes:** There was a shooting in Wenatchee, the media was involved, and the Chief of Police decided to pull together the community to get their point of view. 350 people from the community attended the meeting. Reyes stated that one of the conclusions of the meeting was that gangs are not a law-enforcement problem, but a community problem.

**Guillen-Cook:** Spoke about her community involvement with Conexión Latina. Recently she met with Ricardo Sanchez from LEAP regarding HB 2330. She serves as chair of the group Centro Latino Ser and will be working on fundraising.

**Gaeta:** Congratulated Phyllis Gallegos for doing such a good job standing in as Chair while he was deployed with the Armed Forces. He believes families don't understand how the health insurance process works, or where to get services. The state cut benefits last session to undocumented immigrants and immigrant children, so in response he helped to coordinate a public meeting in Othello to talk about health care, education and immigration issues. Gaeta is working on trying to get the community educated. Last year a lot of the programs took a big hit because of budget cuts, specifically, Maternity Support Services. So he is asking the communities to contact their legislators to tell them how this is going to affect the Hispanic community.

**Diaz:** Diaz works locally with the Whatcom Hispanic Organization (WHO); they have an educational program called the Computer Wizards. The organization received donated computers from the FBI, and WHO in turn donated those computers to migrant families and is educating them on how to use the computers. They recently hired an Americorp worker to manage the program. WHO gave \$10,000 in scholarships. With their most recent fundraiser they raised \$2,000. The organization will be working with Ricardo Sanchez on HB 2330.

She will be requesting a meeting with the Chief of the Border Patrol in her area regarding immigration problems and has invited Antonio to attend.

**Banfi:** Banfi has been chairing the Administrative Policies Committee and has been working to update the CHA's administrative policies. Banfi is also on the Emergent Issues committee, and he will specifically be working on the racial profiling issues. Currently he is working with the Mexican consulate to try to get a mobile counselor to travel with the consulate. In Bellevue they now have over 10,000 Latinos in the area, which is a sign of growth and changing times.

**Gallegos:** Mentioned that she's had great experiences working with the Commission and its commissioners. Gallegos announced that she had decided to resign from the Commission and had announced it yesterday at the study session. About two years ago she was going to resign and was convinced not to resign at that time, but this time she wasn't convinced otherwise so has decided to go forward with her resignation.

#### **New and unfinished business:**

Legislative agenda will be written and sent to the governor's office by mid December. There were discussions at the study session held the day before about commissioner recruitment and plans on implementing a selection process.

**Banfi:** Made a motion to start an ad hoc committee to work on recruitment and that such committee be formed within 30 days. The committee would review potential applicants and then present their findings to the rest of the commissioners. He explained the new process and stated that a minimum of three commissioner candidates must be selected to make the recommendations official.

**Diaz - 2<sup>nd</sup>** the motion

Approved.

## **Public Comments**

**Lupe Guijosa:** Spoke about her concerns of not having accessible resources and services. She said that people don't attend public meetings usually because of the time the meetings are held and that they are intimidated by the police presence.

**Bulmero Solano:** Lived here in Shelton and is here to talk about how workers that are undocumented get injured and subsequently their employers do not want to cover their medical cost. (Representatives of L&I were available to speak to him at the meeting and they exchanged contact information.)

**Reneé Ruiz-Collins:** Spoke about the number of Guatemalan people in the area and that they are not being heard until they are in court, which by then it may be too late.

**Hector Oliva:** He asked why it took so long for the Commission to make it Shelton. He felt that L&I are not providing the services needed to injured workers. (The Chair and Executive Director explained the process for meeting selection)

## **Service Providers' Comments**

**Steve McLain (Regional Administrator, Region 4, Labor & Industries)** Gave introduction to program and services. McLain said that they are working on new legislation that will make employers accountable for wages for employees who get deported. The issue about the lawsuit with L&I and Brochero (brush pickers) Companies was also discussed. He said that a decision was made in Feb 2001 to have workers take a six-part test to verify if they are working as contractors. The court is going to have to decide if the brush pickers are employees of the companies involved in the court hearings. The Brocheros currently are not available for Industrial Insurance, however they can get industrial insurance on themselves. It's difficult to get in contact with the Brocheros who are working in the industry. If they want to be considered as an independent contractor they have to follow the laws for being licensed.

**Chief Terry Davenport (Shelton Chief of Police)** recently appointed in April 2001, attended the meeting to hear what the issues are in the community. They have started some Neighborhood watch programs and would like to get some assistant in getting the Hispanic Community involved. He was asked how he felt about data collecting regarding racial profiling. He stated that the process would have to be carefully done. Once the data was collected the interpreting of the data may become an issue.

**Executive Director** if there are a complaint about a certified court interpreter you can contact our office and we will get that info to the board for certified interpreters

**Diaz:** Suggested that the Chief meet with a small group of people to get a committee started

**Reneé Ruiz-Collins:** Stated that the area there are a lot of Guatemalan people and believes that they are not being heard until they are in court and felt that by then it could be too late.

**Joan Zook (Superintendent of Shelton School District)** She said that there are issues state wide in education and that it is the Shelton School district's paramount duty

to educate. She gave details about the bilingual program in Mason County and that they receive only 10% of bilingual funding and \$800,000 dollars comes from local money.

Since the commission is working on a legislative agenda she suggested that the commission forward it to the following; WASA, WEA, ASP, WSD (WA State School Directors)

**Kim Clint (Mason Matters)** Thanked Lupe and the rest of the Latino community to give her the opportunity to get to know and understand the Latino community.

Mason Matters, is an organization that is funded by March of Dimes and United Way. She is concerned that not enough medical providers have interpreters available. She continues to see family members interpreting. There are children attending appointments with their parents and interpreting for them. How do we get a list of all the families that were affected by the changes to medicare?

**Avalos:** told her to contact Lee Campos regarding Migrant Student record to find out about Guatemalan communities and she gave her their website.

**Gallegos:** Made a motion that in the area of research the commission should check into whom in the state or federal government is responsible for the accountability of interpreters.

**Guillen-Cook 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Approved

**Jenaro Castaneda (Employment Security Department)** gave info regarding program and assistance of benefit that are available to them. They have translated documents and have 105 bilingual staff members.

**Everett Hughes (Enrolled Accountant Agent)** Representing tax payers, agrees with the decision that the Judge made regarding the Brocheros (brush pickers), but wants to help the taxpayers of this area. Stated that Agencies don not care about your nationality they care about your tax dollars.

**Fabiola Barbosa (ACE Telecommunication)** this program is a result of a lawsuit regarding public telephone rights they developed brochures about phone services. The brochures give examples of what services are available. She is available to speak to groups about the new service.

**Paulina Alanis (Interpreter Program Manager with Mason General Hospital)** Announced that they have several classes set up to train their new interpreters and that the hospital has Spanish classes for the public available.

Adjournment 1:04  
Diaz made motion  
Christina 2<sup>nd</sup>